

# Special Report on Climate Change

## What you can do at home

### Change 5 light bulbs

If every household in the U.S. replaced 5 conventional bulbs with ENERGY STAR rated bulbs, we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars. Efficient bulbs cost more upfront, but save money on your electric bill in the long run.



### Use water efficiently

Water systems require huge amounts of energy to purify and distribute water to households, and saving water, especially hot water, will lower greenhouse gas emissions. Water your lawn during the coolest part of the day and purchase efficient appliances whenever possible.



### Simply drive less

Cars and trucks are the number one emitters of greenhouse gasses in our state. Unnecessary driving and simply idling in your drive way not only costs you money, but pumps tons of carbon emissions in the atmosphere every year. Take steps to reduce wasted gas, or better yet, take public transit, walk or ride a bike whenever possible.



### Calculate your carbon footprint

Check out my website: [www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/upthegrove](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/upthegrove), for links to the EPA's personal emissions calculator to find out how large your family's carbon footprint is and what steps you can take to reduce it.



### Electronic Newsletter:

Please visit my website, [www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/upthegrove](http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/upthegrove), to receive future newsletters electronically. You will still receive all of the information, but without using paper.

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*State Representative*  
**Dave Upthegrove**  
33rd District  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

E-mail: [upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov](mailto:upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov)  
Web: <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/upthegrove>  
Olympia office:  
360-786-7868  
Toll-free Legislative Hotline:  
1-800-562-6000  
TTD-TDD Hearing Impaired:  
1-800-635-9993



*State Representative*  
**Dave  
Upthegrove**

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*“Waiting for the Bush administration to address climate change clearly won’t work. It is now up to states and local communities to take the lead to solve this global problem.”*

— Rep. Dave Upthegrove  
Chairman, House Ecology and Parks Committee.



THEN



Now



# Dave Upthegrove

Chairman, House Ecology and Parks Committee

## Special Report on Climate Change

*Polar bears are drowning in the Arctic. Severe drought is killing crops and causing famine in Africa, and record heat waves are killing thousands in Europe.*

*In Washington, all sectors of the economy and every community are put at risk by climate change. Drinking water supplies all over Puget Sound will dry up as snowpacks melt earlier each year. The economic driver of our state, affordable and predictable hydroelectric power, will be in serious peril as stream flows are reduced. Agriculture – our state's top employer – also faces major threats from climate change.*

*But, I am convinced that there is still time to act, and to put our state in a position to benefit from a future and inevitable "green economy".*

*If we are serious about preventing the potentially catastrophic impacts of global climate change, we must take bold action...and we must do it now.*

### Climate Advisory Team –

Governor Christine Gregoire assembled a team of experts from all sectors of our state's economy, to make detailed recommendations on how our state can reduce carbon emissions, and develop "green-color" jobs in the alternative energy and recycling sectors. The draft recommendations are available online for public comment on the advisory team's website: [www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange)

As Chairman of the House Ecology and Parks Committee, I am working closely with the Climate Advisory Team to develop legislation to implement solutions.

### What we have done so far

We passed legislation last year that basically caps greenhouse-gas emissions from electric power plants at today's levels. And it is working – a newly proposed coal fired plant in Centralia may not be constructed because it can't meet these new standards. Because Washington relies primarily on clean hydropower, we need to take a much more comprehensive approach if we want to achieve meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. Thus, the legislation also set the goals of reducing all carbon emissions statewide to:

**By the year 2020** – emissions reduced to 1990 levels

**By the year 2030** – emissions reduced to 20% below 1990 levels

**By the year 2050** – emissions reduced to 50% below 1990 levels

These goals should be our bare minimum. Scientists tell us that the ecological impacts of global climate change are beginning to occur much more rapidly than previously anticipated.

### What needs to be done: Capping greenhouse emissions

It is one thing for politicians to set goals, it is quite another to craft policies that actually meet these goals. Meeting greenhouse gas emissions goals means making changes in how we generate and use energy, and holding businesses and communities accountable for the carbon emissions they generate. We must get beyond setting goals and start taking meaningful action. **It is long past time for our state to implement a firm cap on carbon emissions.**

### Proposed 2008 Legislation

I am supporting legislation this year to take bold new steps to reduce carbon emissions that cause global climate change. The legislation requires for the first time that greenhouse gas emissions from major sources be measured and inventoried. More importantly, the legislation also requires the State of Washington to participate in a regional "cap and trade" system under development in the Western United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. This will mean firm caps on overall carbon emissions in the region, with flexibility given to polluters as to how to meet those goals.

This legislation also positions Washington to create new green energy jobs in the emerging clean fuel economy.

### CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS

**Carbon in Gasoline** – For each gallon of gasoline burned, 20 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> is spewed into the atmosphere.

**Rising Temperatures** – According to the National Academy of Sciences, the planet's surface temperature has risen by about one degree Fahrenheit in the past century, with accelerated warming during the past two decades.

**Rising Carbon Levels** – Ice cores taken from deep in ancient ice of Antarctica shows CO<sub>2</sub> levels are higher now than at any time in the past 650,000 years.

**Recycling Really Works** – Recycling aluminum cans takes 9 times less energy than producing a new can out of bauxite.